

CLAIMS

1. An irrigation tip for use with a handpiece, the tip comprising:
 - a shaft forming an irrigation lumen and having an outer surface;
 - a connector for connecting the tip to the handpiece; and
 - a debrider disposed along at least a part of the outer surface of the shaft, the debrider defining a substantially planar debriding surface.
2. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 wherein the debrider includes a plurality of bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the debriding surface.
3. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 wherein the debriding surface is a first debriding surface, the debrider also including a second substantially planar debriding surface.
4. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 3 wherein the debrider includes a second plurality of bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the second debriding surface.
5. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 further including a rigid tube within the irrigation lumen.
6. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 further including a knob mounted to the shaft.

7. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 wherein the shaft forms a longitudinal irrigation hole through the distal end of the shaft.
8. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 wherein the shaft forms a radial irrigation hole through the shaft.
9. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 1 wherein the shaft has a maximum outer dimension of approximately 0.35 inches.
10. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 9 wherein the debrider has a maximum outer dimension of approximately 0.51 inches.
11. A system for debriding a site, the system comprising:
 - a handpiece; and
 - an irrigation tip that is connectible to the handpiece, the tip comprising:
 - a shaft forming an irrigation lumen and having an outer surface; and
 - a debrider disposed along at least a part of the outer surface of the shaft, the debrider defining a substantially planar debriding surface.
12. The system as defined by claim 12 wherein the handpiece includes a pulsatile pump for emitting irrigation liquid in a pulsatile flow.
13. The system as defined by claim 11 wherein the debrider includes a first plurality of

bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the first debridging surface.

14. The system as defined by claim 13 wherein the debridging surface is a first debridging surface, the debrider further including a second substantially planar debridging surface.

15. The system as defined by claim 14 wherein the debrider includes a second plurality of bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the second debridging surface.

16. The system as defined by claim 11 further including a rigid tube within the irrigation lumen.

17. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 11 wherein the shaft forms an irrigation hole through the shaft.

18. The system as defined by claim 11 wherein the shaft has a maximum outer dimension of approximately 0.35 inches.

19. The system as defined by claim 11 wherein the tip further includes a knob secured to the shaft.

20. An irrigation tip for use in a body joint, the tip being used with a handpiece and comprising:

a shaft forming an irrigation lumen and having an outer surface, the shaft being

connectible to the handpiece; and

a debrider for debriding an interior surface of the body joint, the debrider being connected to the shaft and defining a substantially planar debriding surface.

21. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the debrider includes a first plurality of bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the debriding surface.

22. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the debriding surface is a first debriding surface, the debrider further including a second substantially planar debriding surface.

23. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 22 wherein the debrider includes a second plurality of bristles extending from the outer surface of the shaft to the second debriding surface.

24. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the shaft forms an irrigation hole through the shaft.

25. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the outer dimension of the shaft is sized to be insertable into the body joint, the maximum outer dimension of the shaft being approximately 0.35 inches.

26. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the debrider has a maximum outer

D0188/7095
SGS/rc
June 19, 1997
patapp.wpd

- 16 -

dimension of approximately 0.16 inches greater than the maximum outer dimension of the shaft.

27. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the shaft includes a distal end, the debrider being mounted to the distal end of the shaft.

28. The irrigation tip as defined by claim 20 wherein the shaft is manufactured from a first material and the debrider is manufactured from a second material, the first material being less flexible than the second material.

add a1